

Mattighofen/Most, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010

## THE KTM X-BOW BATTLE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC: LOCAL HEROES AND ROOKIES DOMINATE IN MOST!

After the successful premiere on the Salzburgring the KTM X-BOW Battle went to the Czech Republic for its second leg, more precisely to Most. And the race track, one hour north of Prague, presented the ideal stage for the drivers of the open super sports car from Austria: a lot of challenging stretches, sweeping curves and technically difficult sections – all, as if tailor-made for the perfectly balanced light weight car with carbon fibre monocoque. Already during the training the lap times on the approx. 4,2 km long track tumbled significantly to the under-two-minute mark, whereby the local hero Jiri Heinik managed to beat the German Jim Gebhart to pole position by just a few hundredth seconds.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Race KTM X-BOW Battle, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010:**

Just before the start a heavy shower presented the drivers with a hefty shock – nobody wanted a go on the fast, difficult track at Most without a single training kilometre on the wet. But, as if on order, it dried up and even the sun showed itself just at the start. Then followed the probably most thrilling race of the KTM X-BOW Battle to date, which was characterized by wheel-on-wheel duels in the various classes. Towards the end of the first third the inevitable happened: In one of the few slow corners two of the drivers fighting for third place touched and properly shook up the order and even managed the breakdown of the until then man of the race Martin Jansa, who drove a really great race, but who had to retire with a defect wheel suspension. The man in the lead up to then (who was chased by “rookie” Jürgen Pipp), local hero Jiri Heinik then landed in the gravel pit, out of which he thankfully managed to free himself. There followed a great chase to catch up by the Czech, who fell back to seventh or eighth place, but then ploughed through the entire field and managed his overall victory before Jürgen Pipp. Pipp himself could feel like a winner, since he managed a place on the podium in his very first race in the KTM X-BOW Battle. Third and winner of Class 2 was Ernst Kirchmayr, who decided to take part at a pretty late stage and is now one of the hot favourites for the overall victory in Class 2. Behind Pavel Heinik and Klaus Angerhofer, „Michel Vaillant“ drove across the finish line as the first Class 1 starter, behind that guest driver Martin Westerhoff, who managed to keep the upper hand during the infight with KTM chairman Hubert Trunkenpolz. Uwe Schmidt and Jakub Havrlant completed the top ten, Wolfgang Fritsch, Tomas Miniberger and Franz Sauer were on positions eleven to thirteen respectively. Martin Jansa did not score any points just like the unlucky Gerhard Trenker, who, due to technical problems, only went onto the track shortly before the race finished. A non-starter was Jim Gebhart: after second place in training he had to abandon his start because of unexplained trouble with his brakes.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Race KTM X-BOW Battle, Most, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010:**

Whoever thought that the race on Friday could not be surpassed as far as tension and spectacle was concerned was wrong. Because what the 16 strong starter field in their KTM X-BOWS presented on the track in Most on Saturday was unparalleled. The flying start – just like on Friday – went without a hitch, there was also hardly any touching in the first chicane. Soon three „battle groups“ emerged: At the top the winner of the first leg Jiri Heinik battled with Jim Gebhart, who had managed to get his X-BOW back on the road overnight. A bit further back Jürgen Pipp fought against Pavel Heinik, Ernst Kirchmayr and Klaus Angerhofer, Gerhard Trenker observed this fight “from the best seats in the house”. And behind this group the Czech Martin Jansa had taken on Hubert Trunkenpolz, Martin Westerhoff, „Michel Vaillant“, Uwe Schmidt and Wolfgang Fritsch. The positions in all three groups changed with every lap and every smallest opportunity to overtake was used mercilessly on all possible and impossible locations on the track. On the start-/finish-stretch, seemingly in order to complete the drama, Pavel Heinik managed to pull a turn on the gravel, which left his car stuck so badly on the curbs that the race control had to send the safety car onto the track to enable the rescue of Heinik’s X-BOW. This pushed the field further together and immediately after the restart the battle went on. Right at the front, two laps before the finish, Jiri Heinik managed the deciding overtaking manoeuvre and secured himself the double victory before Jim Gebhart. Jürgen Pipp drove onto the podium in his second race as well and as overall third he held the Class-2-winner Klaus Angerhofer at bay, who in turn managed to defeat the Class-2-winner of the first leg at Most, Ernst Kirchmayr. Gerhard Trenker came sixth before the strong drivers Hubert Trunkenpolz and guest driver Martin Westerhoff, who completed the top ten before Martin Jansa and „Michel Vaillant“ (at the same time winner of Class 1), whereby Uwe Schmidt crossed the finish line in eleventh place, Wolfgang Fritsch in twelfth and Tomas Miniberger in thirteenth just a few seconds after. Franz Sauer, Pavel Heinik and Jakub Havrlant grabbed places fourteen to sixteen – on a perfect racing weekend in the Czech Republic.

### **Voices after the Race:**

Georg Silbermayr: „Here in Most we are “far from home”, if you can say that. The fact that we managed to keep the number of starters from the Salzburgring makes me all the happier. Some people, who took part in Austria, didn’t come, because the journey was too long. But to compensate we had six new starters and each one of them is absolutely thrilled. This makes me particularly happy, because it confirms our idea of the KTM X-BOW Battle. And with the close time intervals, the great battles and the „fair play“ among the participants we also see that the entire thing goes into the absolute right direction. In Hockenheim we will surely break the magic 20-participants limit, that much I can say now.“

Ernst Kirchmayr: „I have only decided on a start at the Salzburgring at a very late stage and was already thrilled there – about the X-BOW itself, but also about the KTM X-BOW Battle! Meanwhile I have bought the car and decided to drive the entire season long, because it’s so much fun. All the people who drive here share the enthusiasm for the X.-BOW and for racing in general, but nobody is too dogged and takes himself too seriously, everything is amicable and done with a wink. Additionally the X-BOW is extremely low-priced, you don’t need a big team and you don’t have to swap parts all the time. This is how I imagine fun motor sports to be like!“

Jiri Heinik: „Of course I'm happy about the home victories, even though I think that in normal conditions I would not have stood a chance against Jim Gebhart. But my X-BOW, which was prepared perfectly by my son by the way, is not a pure racing vehicle, even if I start in Class 3. After an hour's work I can drive it without a problem legally on the road! This is very important to me, because there the X-BOW is lots of fun as well!“

### **The Results KTM X-BOW Battle, Most:**

1<sup>st</sup> Race, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010:

1. *Jiri Heinik, CZ, (Class 3) 24:04,196 Minutes\**
2. Jürgen Pipp, DE, (Class 3) + 7,396 Seconds
3. *Ernst Kirchmayr, AT, (Class 2) + 12,302*
4. Pavel Heinik, CZ, (Class 2) + 17,149
5. Klaus Angerhofer, AT, (Class 2) + 18,201
6. *„Michel Vaillant“, AT, (Class 1) + 22,346*
7. Martin Westerhoff, DE, (Class 2) + 24,283
8. Hubert Trunkenpolz, AT, (Class 2) + 24,529
9. Uwe Schmidt, DE, (Class 2) + 40,755
10. Jakub Havrlant, CZ, (Class 1) + 1:12,439
11. Wolfgang Fritsch, DE, (Class 3) + 1:12,882
12. Tomas Miniberger, CZ, (Class 1) + 1:14,806
13. Franz Sauer, AT, (Class 1) + 1 Lap
14. Martin Jansa, CZ, (Class 3) + 7 Laps
15. Gerhard Trenker, AT, (Class 3) + 12
16. Jim Gebhardt, DE, (Class 3) DNS

2<sup>nd</sup> Race, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010:

1. Jiri Heinik, CZ, (Class 3) 25.51:221 Minutes
2. Jim Gebhart, DE, (Class 3) + 0,744 Seconds
3. Jürgen Pipp, DE, (Class 3) + 23,432
4. Klaus Angerhofer, AT, (Class 2) + 25,000
5. Ernst Kirchmayr, AT, (Class 2) + 26,210
6. Gerhard Trenker, AT, (Class 3) + 28,534
7. Hubert Trunkenpolz, AT, (Class 2) + 51,092
8. Martin Westerhoff, DE, (Class 2) + 55,986
9. Martin Jansa, CZ, (Class 3) + 57,378
10. *„Michel Vaillant“, AT, (Class 1) + 59,371*
11. Uwe Schmidt, DE, (Class 2) + 1:00,583 Minutes
12. Wolfgang Fritsch, DE, (Class 3) + 1:00,913
13. Tomas Miniberger, CZ, (Class 1) + 1 Lap
14. Franz Sauer, AT, (Class 1) + 1
15. Pavel Heinik, CZ, (Class 2) + 2 Laps
16. Jakub Havrlant, CZ, (Class 1) + 6

*\*) respective Class winners*

**Score KTM X-BOW Battle, after 4 of 12 Races:**

**Class 1:**

1. „Michel Vaillant“, 38 Points
2. Jakub Havrlant, 17
3. Horst von Saurma, 16
4. Ernst Kirchmayr, 14
4. Tomas Miniberger, 14
6. Franz Sauer, 11
7. Marcus Winkler, 9
8. Christian Burgstaller, 6
9. Christian Steiner, 4

**Class 2:**

1. Klaus Angerhofer, 36 Points
2. Hubert Trunkenpolz, 20
3. Ernst Kirchmayr, 18
4. Gerald Kiska, 16
5. Athanasios Ladas, 12
6. Pavel Heinik, 11
7. Martin Westerhoff, 10
8. Hans Knauss, 8
9. Uwe Schmidt, 7

**Class 3:**

1. Jim Gebhardt, 28 Points
- 1 Jiri Heinik, 28
3. Wolfgang Fritsch, 21
4. Gerhard Trenker, 17
5. Jürgen Pipp, 14
6. Andreas Kitzerow, 5
7. Martin Jansa, 4